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www.ncparks.gov for State Parks Info and Events

Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

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Dee Freeman
Secretary, DENR

VISITOR CENTER OPENS AT THE CLIFFS

A new 7,000-square-foot visitor center at Cliffs of the Neuse State Park in Wayne County, which was built to national green building standards, was formally dedicated June 3

Barbara Byers of the park's advisory committee told guests that the event marks a benchmark in the park's 66-year history. Byers said her own life's journey had many moments at Cliffs of the Neuse, including a marriage proposal, family picnics and the creation of an annual Earth Day event.

"We are all looking forward to where this journey goes from here," Byers said.

Similar to visitor centers built at 20 state parks and state

PARKS ADOPT QR CODES

The state parks brochure program is taking a technological step forward with a new element. Beginning in September, all new printed brochures will contain a QR (quick response) code that will direct people to Internet re-



SCAN WITH
SMARTPHONE TO
BE DIRECTED TO
WEBSITE.

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SUPERINTENDENT DAN SCHEVLAKOW AND MEMBERS OF THE TUSCARORA NATION WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES.

recreation areas since 1994, the facility offers a unique design reflecting the park's character.

The project features an exhibit hall, teaching auditorium and classroom along with administrative offices for both the park and the state parks

system's east district. The facility represents an investment of \$2.4 million from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, the principal funding source for state park capital projects and land acquisition.

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OLD CAMPS GET NEW LIFE

A small army of volunteers, fueled by a grants from outdoors cooperative REI, is nearing the end of an exhaustive project to fully rehabilitate 105 buildings in four historic group camps at William B. Umstead State Park in Raleigh.

Fittingly, a core group of volunteers is drawn from the staff of the Umstead 100-Mile

Endurance Run, and likely feel their endurance has been tested as they hammer, saw and stain their way through a very long list of construction chores.

To date, the volunteers have contributed more than 3,600 hours of labor, and more than 100 gallons of stain have been brushed onto the Depres-

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From The Director's Desk

It's heartening to see so many young people immersed in our state parks and to great effect, as evidenced in a number of stories in this issue of *The Steward*.

No fewer than four students won awards or grants for science projects they've undertaken in the parks. Day camps during the summer on Jones Island at Hammocks Beach State Park were filled to capacity with enthusiastic kids learning about coastal ecology. A group of 17 Hispanic students are practicing hands-on science at four state parks this year in a new program called Good Stewards of the Environment. And, an English instructor at UNC-Chapel Hill got 20 of his freshmen students fired up over a high-tech oral history project for Eno River State Park. He plans to try the audio tours at other parks, as well.

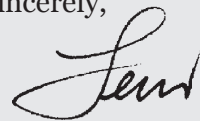
North Carolina has one of the oldest state parks systems in the nation (noting its 95th anniversary this year). It has an interesting history and strong traditions. Here, you can also read about 1930s camps built by the Civilian Conservation Corps being rehabilitated at William B. Umstead State Park as well as a new history book about that period being released by The Umstead Coalition. There are enough

stories in our state parks to fill multiple shelves with history books.

We're obviously proud of our past and have a right to be. But, we can also be confident about the future. New ways of working and new technologies are exciting as we ponder the future of state parks. What gives the highest expectations, however, are the new faces that are to be our visitors, friends and perhaps future rangers.

And, this summer we say goodbye to two who have written much of that proud history with distinguished careers. Our best wishes go to Ed Farr, retiring superintendent at Stone Mountain State Park and Jack "Rusty" Bradley, who retired as superintendent at Mount Mitchell State Park. They began their parks employment during the time I served as the Mount Mitchell superintendent. It was especially gratifying to see the large features in the local media on their parks careers – ones that exemplify the quality service provided by our staff.

Sincerely,



Lewis Ledford

NEW BOOK EXPLORES UMSTEAD'S PAST

By Crystal Lloyd

William B. Umstead State Park Staff

On July 17, the visitor center at William B. Umstead State Park was the setting for a book release of *Stories in Stone*, which details the history of Umstead before it became a park.

Stories in Stone was written by the late Tom Weber, who spent more than 18 years of his life collecting information. The book details the years 1870-1942, with emphasis on the last farming families that occupied the area. Included in the book are four mapped walks to old homesites and places of interest in the old community.

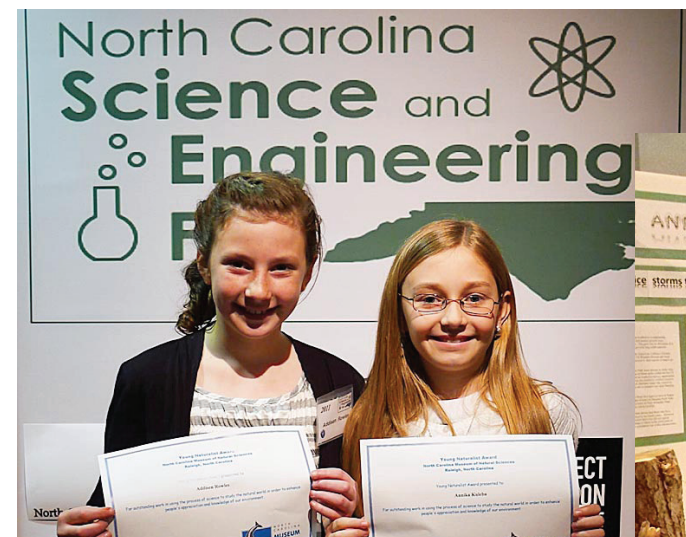
More than 40 people attended the book release. Among them were descendants of families that once lived in the area. One was Hugh Dampier, who actually lived on land that was to become part of the park and shared his stories.

Jean Spooner, chair of The Umstead Coalition, and Charles Flowers opened the event with a brief background about the book and Weber.

The release was a success for The Umstead Coalition, which sold more than two dozen copies. All proceeds go to support the state park.

STORIES IN STONE

Memories from a Bygone Farming Community in North Carolina



ABOVE, ADDISON ROWLES (LEFT) AND ANNIIKA KALEDA RESEARCHED WILDFIRE'S EFFECT ON SOILS. THOMAS MARTIN, AT RIGHT, ATTEMPTED AN EXPERIMENT ON DENDROCHRONOLOGY AT TWO STATE PARKS.



STATE PARKS AS SCIENCE CLASSROOMS

State parks have always been places for research into the natural world. It seems however that the naturalists doing that research are getting younger and younger.

Four young people, ranging in age from elementary to high school, have recently won acclaim for their research at North Carolina state parks.

Addison Rowles and Annika Kaleda of Endy Elementary School in Stanly County and Thomas Martin of Northern Guilford Middle School in Guilford County won state-level science fair competitions this spring. And, Alex Hall, a 16-year-old junior at Forestview High School in Gastonia, has earned a national environmental education grant.

Rowles and Kaleda did their research at Morrow Mountain State Park, examining the effects of wildland fire on soil conditions. With the help of Ranger Walt Summerlin, they excavated soil from the mountain's summit soon after an Easter 2010 fire.

Using soil testing kits, they found that the soil in burned areas contained higher levels of nitrogen and phosphorous and also discovered that grass seed germinated more quickly and grew faster than in "unburned" soil.

Their project, titled "Flame's the Name, Soil's the Game," earned them a Young Naturalist Award from the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences.

Thomas Martin, the middle school student, attempted to use dendochronology – tree

ring dating – of conifers in Pilot Mountain and Hanging Rock state parks to post-date past ice storms.

Along with winning first place in the earth/environmental science division at the state-level science fair, the project also won an outstanding project award from Vulcan Materials Co. and best in show from Wake Forest Medical Center.

Hall won a Planet Connect grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation to place a stationary feeder in the 10-acre lake in Crowders Mountain State Park. He is one of only 10 students in the nation to capture a \$1,000 grant for a proposal and accompanying summer internship.

The first stage of his proposed project will be to collect various treetops and other brush and place them in the lake. He'll also use the grant to purchase large trees that will make larger habitats.

The project will enhance the lake at the state park and allow groups from schools, scouts and 4-H clubs to learn more about the water wildlife and other inhabitants.

Grant funds were made possible through a partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

"We are excited to give our support to these creative student initiatives that will not only impact specific wildlife and habitat issues in their communities, but will also help to sustain a new generation of conservationists," said Georgia Jeppesen, an education official with the agency.

CHIMNEY ROCK MASTER PLAN COMPLETE

The most complex master plan ever developed for the state parks system was completed in July as Chimney Rock State Park unveiled its vision for development over the coming decades.

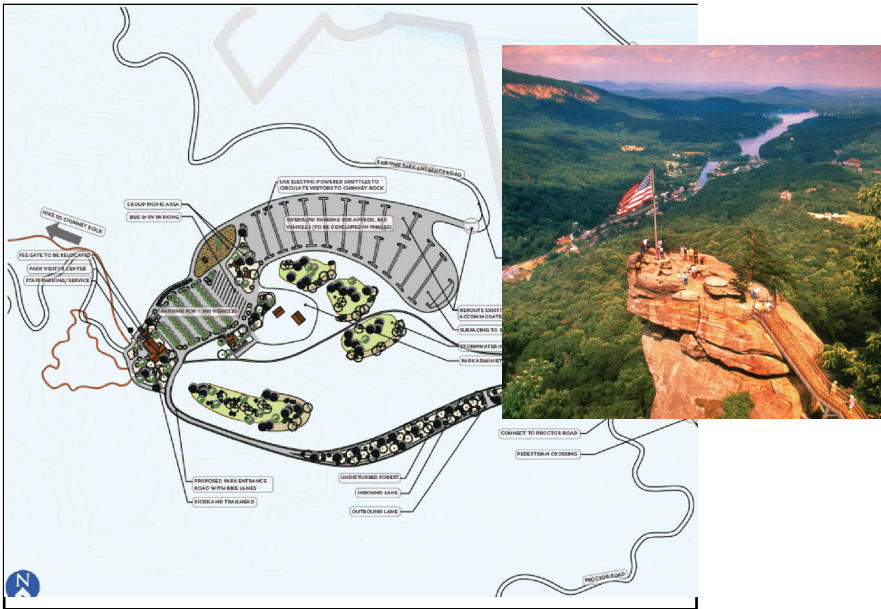
The master plan was the culmination of more than 18 months work by administrative staff, park staff and Greenways Inc., a Durham-based environmental planning and landscape architecture firm responsible for its creation.

The process involved a near-endless stream of in-house meetings plus site visits, mapping, research of natural resources, public meetings and public comment periods and discussions with various stakeholder groups and local government officials.

The plan has been posted to the state parks system's website (www.ncparks.gov), linked from the Chimney Rock State Park main page.

"The result of this tremendous amount of work is a valuable consensus on the long-term plan for the development of this spectacular state park," said Lewis Ledford, state parks director. "It gives us both short-term and long-term goals and the opportunities for more partnerships moving forward."

Chimney Rock State Park in the Hickory Nut Gorge was authorized in 2005 and now encompasses more than 4,500 acres spanning the corners of four counties, though its epicenter is in Rutherford County. The Nature Conservancy, the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy and the Foothills Conservancy were all involved in helping to amass acreage for



THE MASTER PLAN CALLS FOR A VISITOR CENTER IN A CENTRAL LOCATION AND AT LEAST THREE DAY USE AREAS ELSEWHERE IN THE GORGE.

the park.

A critical step came in 2007 when the Morse family agreed to sell the private attraction – the Chimney Rock itself – to the state for inclusion in the park. The 315-foot spire is a dominant landmark in the gorge.

That portion of the state park is being operated through a contract with Chimney Rock management LLC, formed by employees of the former attraction. In addition, the park has regular staff under Superintendent Adrienne Wallace.

The scenic, but very rugged, terrain of the gorge presented unique challenges to the planning effort, as did the abundance of rare species. Those elements combined to severely limit areas of intensive park development. This is not an unusual situation in all state parks, but is particularly acute at Chimney Rock.

Added to this is the close proximity of high-density, high-traffic tourism areas in the Town of Lake Lure and Chim-

ney Rock Village.

The master plan calls for a visitor center and central visitor-receiving area in what's known as the Meadows, a 15-acre parcel at the base of Chimney Rock Mountain. A 6,500-square-foot visitor center will be sited there as well as picnic areas, trailheads and a gate where visitors can gain access to the road and elevator leading to the spire and the higher elevations of the park's southern area.

The principal entrance to the park will be on a new road connection to be built from US 64 in Lake Lure and leading to the Meadows. The existing, narrow entrance road to the area from Chimney Rock Village will become a one-way exit route.

This will substantially alter tourist traffic habits in the gorge, and the master plan envisions an innovative partnership among the local governments to create a bus shuttle system that can get tourists to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

MASTER PLAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

the state park as well as local retail attractions and motels.

"Providing an alternative transportation option will also help the young, disabled and senior citizens enjoy more of the region's attractions. The introduction of an electric or natural gas-powered transit circulator will do more than help mitigate parking concerns and reduce traffic volumes," it states.

Arrayed around this central point will be three day use areas – at World's Edge, a high-value natural area with an escarpment that overlooks the piedmont plain, the Bottomless Pools, a dormant streamside tourist attraction, and Rumbling Bald, a rugged area on the gorge's north side popular with rock climbers.

Development at each of these areas depends on further land acquisitions, but much of the necessary property is being held for conservation purposes by the various nonprofit organizations.

The Rumbling Bald area already offers a new climbing access, and mountain biking and backcountry hiking would be added as opportunities in that area. It adjoins The Nature Conservancy property as well as a tract owned by the Town of Lake Lure that would likely become a gateway to mountain bike trails.

Each of the proposed day use areas would offer access to extended hiking trails including one along the perimeter of Chimney Rock Mountain that would offer a multi-day experience.

The popular Skyline Trail would be extended on a new route along the top of the



CHARLES FLINK OF GREENWAYS INC. CONDUCTS A DAY-LONG PUBLIC MEETING ABOUT THE PLAN HELD IN LAKE LURE IN 2010.

mountain and augmented with observation platforms, including one at the top of Hickory Nut Falls.

The master plan calls for primitive camping opportunities, most notably along the perimeter of Chimney Rock Mountain.

The first steps in implementing this 20-year vision have already begun with improvements to the existing

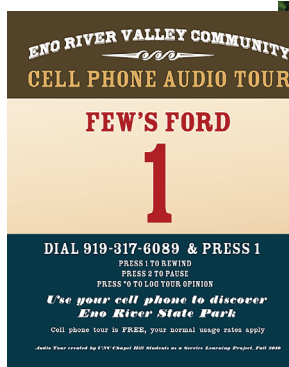
facilities at the former Chimney Rock tourist destination. Pedestrian stairs to the overlooks have been replaced and a project is under way to renovate the 1940s-era elevator through the mountain's granite.

The plan calls for the existing Skyline Lounge to be repurposed as an interpretive center, and the Old Rock Café at the park's entrance will be renovated.



SCENIC BYWAY

IN A CEREMONY AT MOUNT MITCHELL STATE PARK THIS SUMMER, STATE OFFICIALS DECLARED NC 128, WHICH LEADS TO THE MOUNTAIN'S SUMMIT, AS PART OF NORTH CAROLINA'S SYSTEM OF SCENIC BYWAYS.



SIGNS ALERT VISITORS TO CALL FOR A BRIEF AUDIO TOUR.

NEW TECHNOLOGY TELLS OLD STORIES

During the 2010-11 academic year, 20 UNC-Chapel Hill freshmen worked to share some of Eno River State Park's rarely told stories...by cell phone.

A unique service learning project in the students' English 101 class helped them improve creative writing skills, form a personal connection to the park and gain a lifelong commitment to volunteer service.

With the help of park staff and interpretive specialists, graduate instructor Tucker LaPrade guided students in creating four brief narratives of Eno River history that are accessible by a cell phone number posted at park historic sites. Visitors at the site can call the number and get a short, lively history lesson.

The students began by surveying weekend visitors to find out what they were most interested in learning, and worked in teams to write research papers on specific natural and cultural features of the park.

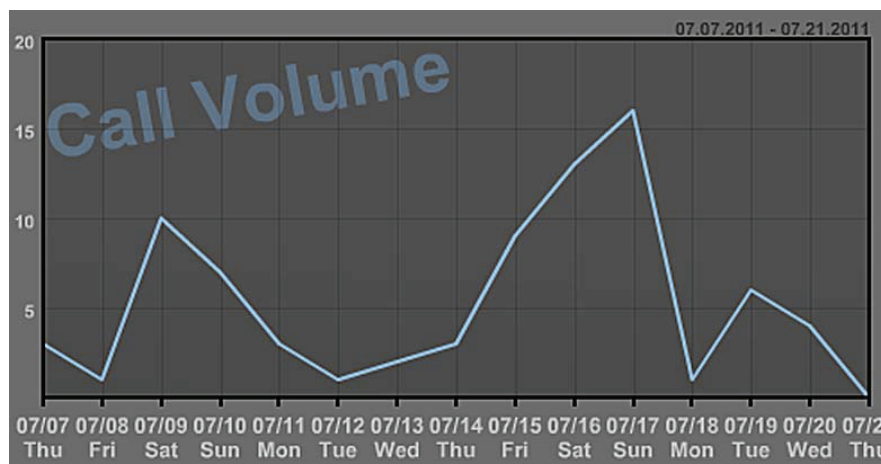
They shared their research with UNC staff and park friends group members by candlelight at the park's picnic shelter. Next came the challenge of turning five pages of research into four audio tours

of roughly 60 seconds each.

Small signs with the cell phone number are posted at the park's suspension bridge, the "wilderness cabin," at Few's Ford and the ruins of a mill.

A cheerful voice reads the narrative, for example, "Hello. Welcome to the old mill site at Eno River State Park. Couldn't find it at first? No worries, neither could we...The early mill was a remarkable place for American settlers. People came to chat and gossip about local news..."

In the first three weeks, 123 park visitors called for the audio tours, which are also available on the state parks system's website. A UNC Service Learning grant of \$600 funded the first year of the technology approach.



THE TECHNOLOGY ALLOWS PARKS TO TRACK THE USE OF AUDIO TOURS.

"We'll use this year as a pilot study to get an idea of how audio tours can help our interpretive and education efforts at other parks," said Sean Higgins, head of the I&E program.

LaPrade received the prestigious Robert E. Bryan Public Service Award for his efforts, and is now considering a similar project for William B. Umstead State Park.

LaPrade, whose interests are split between medieval literature and the outdoors, told the Raleigh News & Observer, "If these tours in any way help the visitor have a better time, it'll be a successful service learning project. You wouldn't think it, but teaching undergraduates writing and volunteering out in the park is great. It's really exciting; it's fun."



HISPANICS EXPAND SCIENCE HORIZONS

Seventeen Hispanic students practiced hands-on science in four state parks this summer in the second year of a four-year partnership between the state parks system and the Society for Hispanic Professionals.

The rising seventh and eighth graders visited Eno River and Hammocks Beach state parks and Jordan Lake and Falls Lake state recreation areas for water-quality testing and lessons on ecology.

The program is supported through a grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund.

According to a national assessment, many Hispanic students score poorly in science education, and are underrepresented in science careers.

To try to reverse that trend, the Society of Hispanic Professionals contacted the state parks system to design a pilot program in summer science enrichment last year, and the Good Stewards of the Environment program was launched. Its success secured the corporate grant.

This fall, the program continues on weekends with a lake ecology-by-canoe program at William B. Umstead State Park and an exotic/invasive species service project at Oconeechee Mountain State Natural Area.



UMSTEAD PROJECT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sion-era cabins, dining halls and meeting rooms. Siding, columns, beams, decking, shutters and windowpanes were replaced in many of the buildings.

Camp Sycamore, the last of the four camps being refurbished, will get intensive care this fall as the weather cools. Work is nearing the last stages at Camps Lapihio, Crabtree and Whispering Pines.

Aside from the runners, volunteers have been recruited from the staff of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources – using paid community service time – from the Umstead Coalition, a park support group, from some local companies and just about any other group to which the organizers pitched the project.

Park Superintendent Scott Letchworth said he has been stunned by the results.

“What they have accomplished is nothing short of amazing,” he said. “When we first took on this project, I had no idea what volunteers would be able to accomplish and have been absolutely amazed at the amount of work that has been completed.”

REI was impressed as well, with executives of the company visiting at times. An original grant of \$20,000 (twice the usual amount for such a project) was augmented with an additional \$15,000 this year. The Umstead Coalition also contributed generously once it realized the potential.

The cycle becomes obvious. The energetic volunteer response prompted more funding, which in turn, attracted still more volunteers.

Dale Tiska, a Raleigh REI outreach coordinator, said “The core group of construction volunteers and the various community and corporate groups (including both REI staff and customers) that have helped stain have done an amazing amount of work.”

Young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) built the group camp buildings of rough-cut lumber milled from the park’s trees on site. They built the camps and much of the rest of the park’s infrastructure during the late 1930s and 1940s.

The men originally had the cabins and dining halls and toilet buildings for their own use, eventually turning them over to the park for scout gatherings, reunions, church retreats and



VOLUNTEERS SPREAD OVER 100 GALLONS OF STAIN ON BUILDINGS IN FOUR GROUP CAMPS.

similar functions.

Over the decades, maintenance of the buildings was sporadic, leading to expected deterioration, especially of the exterior siding.

In spots, some major components such as joists, beams and columns failed.

Some of the buildings have been used to a limited extent in recent years at some of the camps, but the volunteer project will allow more flexibility, and perhaps just as importantly, save structures that have historical significance.

The state park’s maintenance staff did some of the initial and more complex repairs and helped instruct some of the volunteers on the proper repair techniques.

Joe Lugiano, the park’s volunteer coordinator (also a volunteer position), began recruiting help and two key finds were Blake Norwood and Jerry Dudeck, both professional engineers and recent retirees from the N.C. DOT.

At the beginning, said Lugiano, “We had no idea how large the scope of this project would become, how much it would cost to do it or how long it would take.”

Letchworth said that volunteers are now approaching him and Lugiano with ideas for future efforts, including offers from electricians, carpenters, plumbers and other tradesmen.

“This project has created a tremendous amount of excitement with all of the groups who have supported it.”

CLIFFS OF THE NEUSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The park has been more aggressive than ever in offering educational programs, and Dan Schewlakow, the new superintendent at the park, said those efforts will be enhanced as well as opportunities for more outreach to the community.

Lewis Ledford, state parks director, noted that the Cliffs of the Neuse area has witnessed much North Carolina history, including American Indian activity and Civil War skirmishes. The visitor center, with its cultural and natural history exhibits, is now a storehouse for some of that history and will long be a landmark in the community, he said.

“Beyond being a focal point for the park and a gathering place for the community, it will be a place to learn for nearly 200,000 visitors who enjoy the state park each year, and will add to their experience,” he said.

Principal Chief Cecil Hunt and Chief Elijah Locklear of the Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina, participated in the event by offering up a blessing for the facility, as they



THE DEDICATION AUDIENCE INCLUDED MANY MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND SOME RETIRED STATE PARKS SYSTEM EMPLOYEES.

did during groundbreaking ceremonies in 2009.

Museum-quality exhibits in the visitor center explore the natural history and the unique geologic events that resulted in the landscape of the state park, including the bluffs that loom over the Neuse River.

The exhibits also explore ways the landscape and forest influenced the early European settlement and cultural history of the region, such as

the naval stores industry. The building’s sidewalk features a cast model of the Neuse River.

The state parks system has increased its commitment to sustainability by seeking certification for all large projects by the national Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program of the U.S. Green Building Council.

Features at the Cliffs of the Neuse facility that will contribute to certification include both active and passive solar energy systems, low-energy, water-source heat pumps and water-saving fixtures.

The structure was designed by Schema Architecture of Raleigh, and general contractor was Blue Ridge Enterprises of Mount Airy. The exhibits were designed by Design Dimension, Inc. of Raleigh and fabricated by Studio Displays, Inc. of Charlotte.

Cliffs of the Neuse State Park was established in 1945 and reported visitation of 193,704 in 2010.



THE CENTER WAS BUILT TO NATIONAL ‘GREEN’ CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS.

WELL DONE!

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS TO THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM

I am writing to you today to express my thanks to Lake Waccamaw State Park and to its dedicated staff. I work for Brunswick County Parks and Recreation and one of my many duties is to find exciting destinations for our yearly summer camp. I recently learned how close Lake Waccamaw is to our area and I worked with the Lake Waccamaw staff to arrange a field trip to the park. The staff at Lake Waccamaw was very accommodating, informative, helpful and enthusiastic with the staff and children involved in our camp. They provided a hands-on experience for them to take water samples and test ph levels. They also had the children look for mussels in Lake Waccamaw, which the children really enjoyed. All the campers had a blast and enjoyed their time at Lake Waccamaw.

Melinda Johnson

We recently visited Fort Macon and wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed the fort, the visitor center and the beach. I remember the old...the really old...bathhouse from way back before the first condo was a gleam in a developer's eye. Leece and I sipped a few cold drinks from the concession stand while cooling off in the shade. All of your staff were friendly, helpful and well-informed. Fort Macon has become one of Leece's favorite spots on our visits back east. Well done.

Mike Steeves and Alicia Grossman-Steeves

This weekend my son and I went to Crowder's Mt. St. Park to camp overnight. It was one of the most fun experiences we've had. The park was beautiful. Everyone we met on the trails was nice. Your staff has worked to keep the park very clean and perfect for camping. The wood was ready and close by for our fire. I just can't say enough about our time there. Thanks you very much and we will be back often!

Scotty Sells and Nicholas McCallum



I recently returned from my first visit to North Carolina. The people at Merchants Millpond State Park were terrific, and the reason I am writing this letter. My brother and I started our trip at Merchants Millpond and liked it so much that we went out of our way at the end of our trip to spend more time there.

Merchants Millpond is a great park anyway. The pond had the most interesting canoeing we'd found all trip; we enjoyed the boardwalks and the campground was clean and well kept. What really stood out, though, were the people. After four nights I think we met all the people working behind the desk and the maintenance folks. Everyone was knowledgeable, helpful, outgoing and friendly. Jeffrey Turner was particularly so. We joined in his Alligator Talk and Paddle. He involved his audience with his interesting talk and then took us paddling in canoes. He did well to keep folks of varying paddling skills together, and we did see alligators! Afterwards, other park personnel did most of the work to put the canoes away. That activity was the highlight of my two weeks in N.C.

We also saw Jeffrey at the visitor center and when he made his rounds of the campground and stopped to talk to us. He was knowledgeable and accurate on places outside Merchants Millpond, including the Great Dismal Swamp and N.C. in general. It is obvious Jeff loves and cares about his job. He is a great asset and you are lucky to have him.

Nancy Hipp



LEARNING ABOUT BLUE CRABS AND HERMIT CRABS FOUND IN THE MARSH SURROUNDING JONES ISLAND WAS ONE OF THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES.



DAY CAMPERS EXPLORE JONES ISLAND

The first day camps this summer on Jones Island at Hammocks Beach State Park attracted a host of hermit crabs, assorted fishes and about 40 youngsters who immersed themselves in the warm waters and lessons on coastal ecology.

A unique partnership between the state park and the N.C. Coastal Federation has resulted in a living laboratory and outdoor classroom on Jones Island, 22 acres of high ground in the mouth of the White Oak River. Most of the island was added to the state park in 2007.

Renamed the Jones Island Environmental Education and Restoration Center, a once-defunct campground among the live oaks was refashioned through hundreds of hours of volunteer labor. Two one-day camps were held with the maximum 22 kids enrolled each day, ages 8-10.

As one group of campers fanned out onto the island's shallow beach on a hunt for marine critters, Sarah Phillips, an outreach specialist for the conservation organization, said there has been a very favorable and immediate response to the idea by parents.

"We definitely had interest right away," she said. "For this age, parents are always looking for interesting camps, and in this area there really aren't any like this. It's mostly crafts."

Running the day camps has been a learning experience for Phillips and Ranger Renee Tomczak, who were partners in creating the camp itinerary, with time spent adjusting the level of adult supervision and the type and pace of activities. But, at least four day camps will likely be scheduled in 2012.

Sam Bland, a retired park superintendent who now works part time for the Coastal Federa-

tion, said that once the park acquired the property, a decision had to be made whether to tear down small cottages and storage sheds to let the land revert naturally, or to somehow make use of the modest development.

Having the island as a new and unique type of destination has been attractive to park visitors and an added draw for park educational programs, he said.

The Coastal Federation stepped up with the idea of an education center and with volunteers who began restoring the buildings and removing unwanted brush during regular workdays over the past two years.

Volunteers also established several hundred feet of manmade oyster reef and marsh grass plantings to help protect the upstream and downstream shorelines. Layers of marl and recycled oyster shells offer a place for live oysters to attach and to their job of cleaning the water and providing marine habitat.



CAMPERS LEARN THE FINE ART OF SEINE NETTING.

FULLWOOD TO LEAD GOOSE CREEK

John Fullwood, a veteran state park ranger, has been promoted to superintendent of Goose Creek State Park in Beaufort County. He succeeds Kelley Thompson, who was named superintendent at Haw River State Park in Guilford and Rockingham counties.

A superintendent is the chief of operations and administration at a state park or state recreation area with wide-ranging responsibilities for staffing, training, law enforcement, visitor services, natural resource protection and environmental education.

A native of Raleigh, Fullwood earned a bachelor's degree in leisure sciences and resource management from East Carolina University in 1992. Having worked as a seasonal employee at



Jockey's Ridge State Park, he joined the division as a ranger at that park upon graduation.

In 2006, he was promoted to an advanced ranger position at Fort Macon State Park. He holds certifications in environmental education and advanced law enforcement.

"John has been a valued ranger at two of the busiest state parks in North Carolina and brings that experience as well as a well-grounded background in Natural resource management to Goose Creek State Park, the setting for our eastern environmental education center," said Lewis Ledford, state parks director. "He is a good choice to lead that park where education and resource management are so closely linked."

Fullwood said, "After nearly 20 years on the coast, I am excited about learning and being involved in new resource management activities. Goose Creek has many recreational activities to offer as well. The staff has been very welcoming and I look forward to working with them."

Goose Creek State Park was established in 1974, and now encompasses 1,672 acres. It reported visitation of 273,666 in 2010.

WATKINS NEW LAKE SUPERINTENDENT

Fred Watkins, a veteran state park superintendent, has been named as superintendent at Jordan Lake State Recreation Area in Chatham County. He will join Superintendent Shederick Mole in the management of the park.

A superintendent is the chief of operations and administration at a state park or state recreation area with wide-ranging responsibilities for staffing, training, law enforcement, visitor services, natural resource protection and environmental education.

Each of the state recreation areas at Jordan, Falls and Kerr lakes operates with two park superintendents.

A native of Williamsport, Pa., Watkins graduated in 1989 from California University of



Pennsylvania in California, Pa. with a bachelor's degree in environmental conservation and worked as a seasonal employee for the state parks system at Jordan Lake and Hammocks Beach State Park.

In 1991, he became a ranger at the Parkers Creek section of Jordan Lake and moved to the Vista Point section in 1996. In 2008, he became the first superintendent at the new Mayo River State Park in Rockingham County. Watkins is a certified environmental educator and earned advanced law enforcement certification.

"Fred's leadership and his prior experience at the park will be invaluable at Jordan Lake State Recreation Area. It is one of the busiest outdoor destinations in North Carolina and has become a critical natural resource in this rapidly growing region," said Lewis Ledford, state parks director.

Jordan Lake State Recreation Area includes seven separate recreation sites on the 14,000-acre reservoir. The park had nearly a million visitors in 2010.

FARR RETIRES FROM STONE MTN.

The retirement of Ed Farr, superintendent at Stone Mountain State Park, ending a 30-year career, was marked in July by a gathering of his co-workers, family and friends at the park.

"I'm proud of my career, but also proud of the jobs we did and always have done," Farr told the group. "What I will miss is living in the park. What I won't miss is Beacon (online database) and those late-night phone calls."

Farr became known as one of the state parks system's go-to employees for emergency search-and-rescue operations, having handled several high-profile incidents at Stone Mountain and in nearby areas of the mountains. He also laid the groundwork for a coordinated communications system.

"You've got an outstanding career to look back upon and how you raised the standard," said Lewis Ledford, state parks director. "No matter what you do hereafter, it's the work you've done heretofore that makes the state parks system special."

A native of Johnson City, Tenn., Farr graduated from East Tennessee State University in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in biology. While in college, he worked as a seasonal employee at Mount Mitchell State Park and Falls Lake State Recreation Area.

He was hired in 1983 as a ranger at Wil-

BRADLEY RETIRES FROM MITCHELL

Jack "Rusty" Bradley, who as a ranger and superintendent was a fixture at Mount Mitchell State Park for almost all of a 30-year career, retired from the state parks system in July.

During his tenure as superintendent, Bradley oversaw the addition of several hundred acres to North Carolina's oldest state park that features the highest peak in the eastern U.S. He also directed several notable park improvements including a new observation deck that replaced a crumbling concrete tower, and a new exhibit hall and improvements to the trails system.

"He has been an exemplary and respected, hands-on type of leader in providing the range of services offered by our parks," said Lewis Ledford, state parks director, "all the while working and living in one of the more scenic, yet challenging, natural environments in North Carolina."

Bradley came to the parks system alongside his good friend Ed Farr. Both were students at East Tennessee State University when they drove



FARR, RIGHT, RECEIVES RETIREMENT CERTIFICATE FROM MIKE LAMBERT, CHIEF OF OPERATIONS.

liam B. Umstead State Park and in 1985 moved to Falls Lake, becoming a Superintendent I in 1990. He was interim park superintendent at Umstead for a year. He was named superintendent at Stone Mountain in 1998.

Farr was presented special achievement awards from the division on two occasions – in 1987 for his response in a drowning incident at Falls Lake, and in 1993 for taking on the duties of a maintenance supervisor alongside regular duties.

Farr's dedication to state parks and its initiatives has always been evident, said Mike Lambert, chief of operations. "Ed pushed himself and I think he pushed the division."



BRADLEY, RIGHT, WITH SUPT. JONATHAN GRIFFITH.

to Mount Mitchell looking for summer jobs. He joined the division fulltime as a ranger at New River State Park in 1983 and was promoted in 1985 to chief ranger at Mount Mitchell. He first began work as a superintendent at Lake Waccamaw State Park in 1998 before returning once again to Mount Mitchell in 2000.

QR CODES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sources.

QR codes are matrix barcodes or two-dimensional barcodes with contents that can be decoded at high speed by devices including smartphone mobile apps such as Red Laser or Barcode Scanner. Users' smartphones are then directed to a website, or will display any information that the QR code developers design, such as comparative pricing or nearby sources for products.

QR codes originally debuted in Japan for the purpose of tracking parts in vehicle manufacturing, but they have been quickly adopted by other industries for making large amounts of information quickly accessible.

They can now be spotted on ads, magazines, brochures and business cards. The state parks system used its website QR code on its most recent annual report.

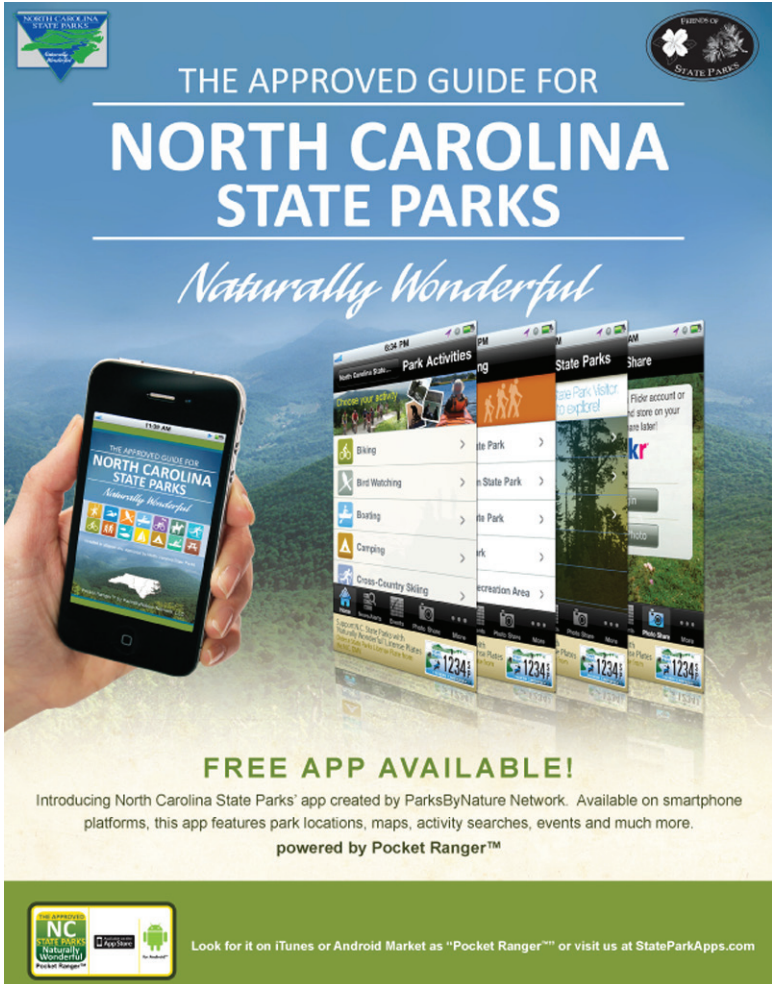
"Each brochure will feature a QR code that will give the user quick access to the state parks system's website page for that particular park," said Lindy Allen, publications coordinator. "This will allow us to link the usability of a hand-

held, paper map with the ever-changing information available on our website."

State park brochures, which include detailed maps are produced for each state park and state recreation area and are available at park offices

and visitor centers.

There is considerable potential for other uses of the QR codes by the state parks system, including displays in exhibit halls, wayside exhibits, campgrounds, trailheads and trail markers.



'PARK' IT
WITH A STATE PARKS
SPECIALTY LICENSE TAG

The Division of Motor Vehicles is accepting applications and payment for these special license plates. There is a \$30 fee in addition to regular license fees (\$60 for personalized plates). Additional fees support conservation through the Parks and Recreation and Natural Heritage trust funds.

Information at www.ncparks.gov
or www.ncdot.org/dmv



NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS
MONTHLY ATTENDANCE REPORT
JUNE, 2011

NC STATE PARK	June 2011	TOTAL YTD Jun-11	June 2010	TOTAL YTD Jun-10	% CHANGE (2011/2010) Jun YTD	
Carolina Beach	56,172	276,284	48,312	218,666	16%	26%
Carvers Creek	0	10	0	0	-100%	-100%
Chimney Rock	19,198	60,378	24,984	75,982	-23%	-21%
Cliffs of the Neuse	22,573	83,459	23,048	93,589	-2%	-11%
Crowders Mountain	25,724	198,364	27,498	195,141	-6%	2%
Dismal Swamp	8,652	45,364	6,017	29,666	44%	53%
Elk Knob	2,966	11,432	2,780	9,278	7%	23%
Eno River including Occoneechee Mountain	56,327	255,665	46,275	224,287	22%	14%
Falls Lake	152,200	398,212	108,622	417,630	40%	-5%
Fort Fisher	145,411	384,150	124,693	363,558	17%	6%
Fort Macon	200,562	645,858	168,168	605,460	19%	7%
Goose Creek	32,060	124,914	28,419	138,937	13%	-10%
Gorges	9,414	34,439	9,010	30,714	4%	12%
Grandfather Mountain	2,264	7,543	1,463	5,066	55%	49%
Hammocks Beach	8,820	44,538	11,276	43,919	-22%	1%
Haw River	2,199	9,796	1,453	10,161	51%	-4%
Hanging Rock	63,864	235,854	70,827	220,357	-10%	7%
Jones Lake	2,682	14,139	5,417	23,063	-50%	-39%
Jordan Lake	129,502	374,046	186,556	504,210	-31%	-26%
Jockey's Ridge	285,013	736,460	202,321	603,806	41%	22%
Kerr Lake	152,876	624,408	129,968	468,904	18%	33%
Lake James	86,767	299,311	43,963	139,811	97%	114%
Lake Norman	65,166	250,620	62,964	252,294	3%	-1%
Lake Waccamaw	11,829	44,358	11,496	47,824	3%	-7%
Lumber River	6,184	35,008	9,768	47,502	-37%	-26%
Mayo River	4,333	17,701	6,279	17,386	-31%	2%
Merchants Millpond	26,873	161,546	13,924	117,328	93%	38%
Medoc Mountain	5,986	36,850	5,322	25,452	12%	45%
Mount Mitchell	41,381	99,972	47,298	99,156	-13%	1%
Morrow Mountain	81,960	258,359	44,480	181,576	84%	42%
New River including Mount Jefferson	53,108	128,582	46,952	124,154	13%	4%
Pettigrew	8,246	36,563	8,502	37,437	-3%	-2%
Pilot Mountain	42,152	223,236	56,733	210,981	-26%	6%
Raven Rock	11,516	77,581	11,002	77,487	5%	0%
Singletary Lake	1,804	9,544	4,430	12,764	-59%	-25%
South Mountains	21,488	95,866	24,590	109,276	-13%	-12%
Stone Mountain	56,116	199,556	53,048	197,072	6%	1%
Weymouth Woods	4,635	28,431	3,908	25,419	19%	12%
William B. Umstead	88,998	456,640	80,323	441,852	11%	3%
SYSTEMWIDE TOTAL	1,997,021	7,025,037	1,762,089	6,447,165	13%	9%



Our Mission Remains...

to protect North Carolina's **natural diversity**;

to provide and promote **outdoor recreation** opportunities throughout North Carolina;

to exemplify and encourage **good stewardship** of North Carolina's natural resources for all citizens and visitors.

*8,000 copies of this public document were printed
at a cost of \$562.00 or \$0.07 per copy.*

SAFETY ZONE

TEAM UP FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

- ✓Communicate regularly with all your team members (co-workers) to maintain a safe environment.
- ✓Notify all members of your team about hazards and potential hazards, especially new ones.
- ✓Be aware not only of your surroundings and what's going on around you, but the location of co-workers, too.
- ✓Make sure everyone takes safety training seriously; your safety and the safety of others depend on it.

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